A couple of years ago, investigators at Harvard and Stanford universities released a meta-analysis of 228 studies examining workplace stressors and their impact on health. The investigators found that high job demands up the odds of having a physician-diagnosed illness by 35 percent; that long work hours increase mortality by nearly 20 percent; and that work-family conflict raises the incidence of self-reported poor health by about 90 percent. The upshot of the study? That work stress is more damaging to health than secondhand smoke.

It’s this kind of evidence that work can harm our health and our happiness that prompted Human Resource Services (HRS) to unveil Launch Your Life in 2014. Launch Your Life is a hub for work-life and wellness resources designed to cultivate employees’ health; to promote a balanced work-life culture, where work and family obligations coexist in harmony; and to calm the stress brought on by long hours, tight deadlines, and competing demands.

Many know Launch Your Life by its most popular offering: the 15-minute seated massage, which books up quickly. But HRS’s new partnership with the Center for Integrative Medicine in the School of Medicine has expanded the wellness programming available — programming like yoga and guided meditation. Hourlong tai chi classes serve learners at all levels; tai chi’s stretching and deep breathing exercises, its slow, focused movements, have proved useful for stress reduction. Wellness lunch and learns, offered monthly, focus on fitness, nutrition, mindfulness, and stress management.

Among the newest offerings are classes in creative expression. Studies show that creative acts disrupt mental patterns of stress, so Launch Your Life offers flexible coloring sessions you can drop into for as long as your schedule allows. Adult coloring books, pencils, and markers help you channel your inner artist.

Mindful eating is important as well, because hormones released during periods of persistent stress pack a double punch: They can increase your appetite, and they can make you crave food that’s higher in fat or sugar or both. Launch Your Life nutrition demos, offered three times a year, show you how to eat well even when your body doesn’t want you to. At a recent demonstration, employees customized their own low-sodium seasonings and tested them out on barrels of popcorn. Busy workers have since asked for a Crock-Pot demo, so they can eliminate the stress of post-work dinner prep when families are hungry and tired.

HRS has partnered with UM­Brella’s support group for new and expectant parents, and is planning to team up with UM­Brella’s caregiver affinity group to offer resources and services for the growing number of employees taking care of their own aging parents. Elder care is one of the fastest growing sources of stress in America, and practical advice and compassionate support are huge needs among UM­B’s caregiving employees.

Workplace wellness programming isn’t as narrow as the term implies. For 10 years, the American Psychological Association has conducted a nationwide survey on stress, and every year the result is the same: Money is the biggest source of stress in our lives, topping work, family responsibilities, and health concerns. So Launch Your Life offers financial wellness classes throughout the year, covering the topics that keep people up at night: saving for retirement or for your children’s education, paying down debt, being able to weather an expensive emergency. There’s also free tax preparation for employees who make less than $54,000 a year.

HRS is eyeing a number of collaborations with internal and external partners who share its wellness goals and who serve their own health-seeking constituencies. Working together, we can take advantage of greater resources and expertise, and we can think bigger about what we’re able to offer, how we scale programs up for maximum participation, and how we collect feedback that helps us continually improve our programs going forward.

UMB’s efforts to create a healthy workplace are getting noticed. The American Heart Association just recognized us for Workplace Health Achievement. And this summer, UMB was one of 56 Maryland organizations recognized with a Wellness at Work award from Healthiest Maryland Businesses, a movement to engage organizations statewide in promoting their workers’ well-being.

Continued on p. 2
And yet we have more to do. In July, for the first time, UMB was named a “Great College to Work For” by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. We were thrilled to win recognition in three categories — all of them important — but we didn’t snag the Work/Life Balance category, an indication of how well we help employees live a full (and fulfilling) life, in and out of the workplace. If we want to *continue* our run as a Great College to Work For, we need to direct even more attention to workplace wellness, and we need to document increasing demand for these programs to justify our budget and our effort.

You spend far too much time at UMB to want to feel anything less than happy while you’re here. I hope you’ll take advantage of the wellness resources we offer and tell us how we can help you achieve your optimal physical, mental, and emotional health.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD
PRESIDENT

Go to *Launch Your Life* to start on your path to health and wellness. If you can’t find what you’re looking for, email HRWell@umaryland.edu.

**WE ARE UMB**

**WE ARE UMB** is a NEW viewbook sharing the compelling story of UMB and our seven schools. It highlights our excellence in education, research, clinical care, and service. It announces who we are, what we stand for, and why we matter. Make **WE ARE UMB** part of your recruitment activities, fundraising efforts, and meetings with partners, policymakers, and constituents. **WE ARE UMB** is available online at UMB Fast Facts. For viewbook copies, contact your communications office.

**Now Available**
UMB NIGHT at the Ballpark

Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox
Tuesday, Sept. 19
7:05 p.m.

All fans will receive an Orioles knit cap

7 SEATING OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

Terrace Box Outside Bases
Sections 1-17, 55-65: $39*

Lower Reserve Between Bases
Sections 19-53: $39*

Left Field Lower Box
Sections 66-86: $39*

Lower Reserve
Sections 7-17, 55-87: $24*

Eutaw Street Bleachers
Sections 90-98: $24*

Upper Reserve
Sections 306-364: $20*

Left Field Upper Reserve
Sections 368-388: $15*

$5 of every ticket sold will benefit the UMB CURE Scholars Program

*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS
1. Click on the link below
2. Select a quantity of tickets
3. Create a Baltimore Orioles ticket account
4. Purchase and print your tickets

orioles.com/tix/umbuniversityevents

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team. Tickets posted for re-sale are subject to cancellation. Offer is NOT valid at the Box Office.
UNIVERSITYWIDE

Please welcome our 2017-2018 Staff Senate Executive Committee: Hillary Anne Edwards, MPH, president, School of Pharmacy; Riham Keryakos, vice president, School of Medicine; Kaya Smith, secretary, Center for Information Technology Services; Mikki Coleman, member-at-large, School of Nursing; Colette Beaulieu, past president, Health Sciences and Human Services Library

The UMB Police Force has promoted Erik Pecha to the rank of captain. A University employee since 2015 after 21 years in the Baltimore Police Department, Pecha has served at UMB as lieutenant, security shift commander, and acting captain.

María M. Pinkas, MLS, metadata management librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, received special recognition for her work with the online learning and webinar programs of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference.

Patricia Scott, assistant vice president, University Student Financial Assistance and Enrollment Services, was selected by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators to serve as a panelist during its annual briefing on Capitol Hill. She and other higher education experts shared their perspectives on the future of federal student aid programs.

M.J. Tooey, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, contributed the chapter “Supporting Institutional Strategic Directions and User Needs Through Library Collaborative Spaces” to Information and Innovation: A Natural Combination for Health Science Libraries.

Please welcome our 2017-2018 Faculty Senate Executive Committee: Michael Woolley, PhD, MSW, president, School of Social Work; Isabel Rambob, DDS, vice president, School of Dentistry; Karen Clark, PhD, RN, secretary, School of Nursing; Sarah Michel, PhD, past president, School of Pharmacy

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Douglas Barnes, DDS, MS, professor, Department of General Dentistry, was awarded a five-year, $828,300 grant from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide dental services for both the Family Investment and Health Care for the Homeless programs.

William Hoffman Jr., MAS, administrator, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, was accepted as a member of the Society of Research Administrators International’s Speakers Bureau.

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of operative dentistry in the Department of General Dentistry. Melo also has been appointed as director of the Operative Division.

MARÍA M. PINKAS (SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH OTHER AWARD WINNERS AT THE ALA CONFERENCE.
CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Rebecca Bowman-Rivas, MSW, manager, Law and Social Work Service Program, was awarded the 2016-17 University System of Maryland Board of Regents’ Staff Award for Extraordinary Public Service to the University or Greater Community. The program she manages brings together law and social work students to offer vital services to needy individuals and families.

The Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS) celebrated its 15th anniversary in June by hosting a gala attended by clients, University and CHHS alums, VIPs, and others. WJZ-TV commemorated the occasion with a segment.

Danielle Citron, JD, Morton & Sophia Macht Professor of Law, was a guest on HBO’s Vice News to discuss the “First Big Case Against Alt-Right Trolls.” Citron also was one of 58 individuals elected to the American Law Institute in July.

Douglas Colbert, JD, professor, wrote an op-ed in The Sun titled “Mandatory Sentencing Doesn’t Work.”

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, made numerous local and national media appearances this summer to discuss topics ranging from Russian hackers to ISIS-inspired attacks in London.

Renée Hutchins, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Public Interest Law and co-director, Clinical Law Program, wrote a chapter titled “Racial Profiling — The Law, the Policy, and the Practice,” in Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution and Imprisonment.

Frank Pasquale, MPhil, JD, professor, was recognized as one of the top 10 most-cited authors in health law scholarship, according to an analysis published by Harvard’s Petrie-Flom Center. He was cited approximately 300 times between 2010 and 2014.

Robert Percival, MA, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law, and director, Environmental Law Program, gave two talks at the Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic Workshop at Chancellor College, University of Malawi. They were titled “Global Environmental Justice” and “Using Student Films to Defend the Environment.”

Rena Steinzor, JD, Edward M. Robertson Professor of Law, and student Elise Desiderio conducted research analyzing rule-making delays in the White House. Their research and analyses were published on the Center for Progressive Reform’s blog. The blog item has been cited by The New York Times, Scientific American, Greenwire, and CNN.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit www.somnews.umaryland.edu.

Toni Antalis, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, Center for Vascular and Inflammatory Diseases, received a five-year, $1,767,095 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute for “Protease Activated Receptor-2 (PAR-2) Signaling and Metastatic Ovarian Cancer,” which will elucidate a newly discovered proteolytic pathway that regulates ovarian tumor angiogenesis.

Eileen Barry, PhD, professor, and Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, associate professor, both Department of Medicine, Center for Vaccine Development, received a three-year, $2.5 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Good Manufacturing Practices Master Cell and Working Cell Banks and GMP Pilot Lot of Prototype Shigella flexneri 2a Live Vector Expressing Enterotoxigenic E. coli Antigens.”
Ricardo Feldman, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, gave an invited talk on “Impaired Dopaminergic Development in an iPSC Model of Gaucher Disease” at the Recent Advances in Rare Diseases meeting in Moscow.

Marc Hochberg, MD, MPH, MACP, MACR, professor and vice chair, Department of Medicine, has been named president of the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative from June 2017 through June 2019.

Sharon Hoover, PhD, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, received a four-year, $793,738 award from Kaiser Permanente to conduct a national evaluation of its Thriving Schools, Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative.

Brian Johnson, OTR/L, postdoctoral fellow, and Kelly Westlake, PhD, assistant professor, both from the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, along with Steven Scharf, MD, PhD, clinical professor, Department of Medicine, were among the co-authors on “Targeted Memory Reactivation During Sleep, but Not Wake, Enhances Sensorimotor Skill Performance: A Pilot Study,” which was published in The Journal of Motor Behavior.

Sarah Kattakuzhy, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology, was the lead author of “Expansion of Treatment for Hepatitis C Virus Infection by Task Shifting to Community-Based Nonspecialist Providers: A Nonrandomized Clinical Trial,” which was published in Annals of Internal Medicine.

Miriam Laufer, MD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, and director, Division of Malaria Research, and Christiana Cairo, PhD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Institute for Human Virology, were awarded a five-year, $2 million U01 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “The Impact of In Utero HIV Exposure on Infant T and B Cell Responses in Malawi.” Laufer also received the 2017 J. Tyson Tildon Award for Excellence in Pediatric Research.

Sung-Woo Lee, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors on “Insight Gained From Responses to Surveys on Reference Dosimetry Practices,” which appeared in the Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics.

Iris Lindberg, PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received a five-year, $2.1 million R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for “Opioid Peptide Synthesizing Enzymes.”

Emmanuel Mongodin, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and Lynn Schriml, PhD, associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, both from the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), led the research project “City Sampling Day Event” on June 21, as part of Global City Sampling Day (GCSD). Mayor Catherine Pugh participated as a citizen scientist, swabbing samples at the Charles Center Metro Station. The mission of
GCSD is to collect samples from mass-transit systems across the world to understand the movement of microbes across transportation systems. Other IGS participants included Lauren Hittle, PhD, Silvia Beurmann, PhD, Eli McComb, Courtney Robinson, MS, Jacob Friedman, Kalyn Ali, and Bilal Iqbal.

Vincent Njar, PhD, professor and head, Medicinal Chemistry Section, Center for Biomolecular Therapeutics, and Puranik Purushotamachar, PhD, research associate, Department of Pharmacology, invented “Nonsteroidal and Steroidal Compounds with Potent Androgen Receptor Down-Regulation and Anti Prostate Cancer Activity,” which received a U.S. patent.

Michelle Pearce, PhD, and Delia Chiaramonte, MD, both assistant professors, Department of Family and Community Medicine, co-authored “When a Patient Asks for Prayer: What’s a Provider to Do?” which appeared in the International Journal of Palliative Nursing. Pearce also discussed “Religious Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression” at the 125th annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C.

Henry Silverman, MD, MA, professor, Department of Medicine, received a five-year, $1,242,000 grant from the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health for “Developing a Master's Degree Program in Myanmar.” Myaing Nyunt, MD, MPH, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, and director, Institute for Global Health - Myanmar, is a principal investigator on this grant.

Yutaka Tagaya, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology, and Robert Gallo, MD, Homer and Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine and founding director, Institute of Human Virology, co-authored “The Exceptional Oncogenicity of HTLV-1,” which was published in Frontiers in Microbiology.

Michaell Pearce, PhD, and Delia Chiaramonte, MD, both associate professors, Department of Family and Community Medicine, co-authored “When a Patient Asks for Prayer: What’s a Provider to Do?” which appeared in the International Journal of Palliative Nursing. Pearce also discussed “Religious Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression” at the 125th annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C.

Henry Silverman, MD, MA, professor, Department of Medicine, received a five-year, $1,242,000 grant from the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health for “Developing a Master's Degree Program in Myanmar.” Myaing Nyunt, MD, MPH, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, and director, Institute for Global Health - Myanmar, is a principal investigator on this grant.

Yutaka Tagaya, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology, and Robert Gallo, MD, Homer and Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine and founding director, Institute of Human Virology, co-authored “The Exceptional Oncogenicity of HTLV-1,” which was published in Frontiers in Microbiology.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Susan L. Bindon, DNP ’11, MS ’96, RN-BC, CNE, assistant professor, wrote “Professional Development Strategies to Enhance Nurses’ Knowledge and Maintain Safe Practice,” which was published in the August 2017 edition of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Journal. The journal selected the article as the continuing education feature for its special focus issue highlighting nursing education.
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Bruce Anderson, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Maryland Poison Center, has been elected to the board of the American Association of Poison Control Centers for a three-year term.

Kimberly Claey, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $27,222 grant from Making a Difference in Infectious Diseases for “Improving Clinical Outcomes in Gram-Negative Bacteremia Through a 24-Hour Multidisciplinary Verigene Gram-Negative Blood Culture Treatment Pathway.”

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean, academic affairs, has been named chair of the Awards Committee of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.

Susan dosReis, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-month, $25,000 grant from Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America for “Center for Patient-Focused Value Assessment.”

Pedro Gamez, a LAN administrator at the Maryland Poison Center (MPC), was named UMB’s July Employee of the Month for configuring temporary work stations, adapting the call center’s computer hardware, and more so the MPC could continue its 24/7 services for a week in May while new carpeting was being installed.

David Goodlett, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $18,750 contract from the University of Washington for “Functional Characterization of the Bax-interacting factor-1 Interactome in Neurons.”

Emily Heil, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $60,000 contract from the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists for “Pharmacotherapy Residency Award” and a one-year, $60,000 contract from ALK, Inc. for “Cost-effectiveness of Penicillin Testing Services.”

Alexander MacKerell Jr., Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Computer-Aided Drug Design center, received a four-year, $1,120,464 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “Oligonucleotide Conformational Heterogeneity.”

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, $157,755 grant from the Alpha-1 Foundation for “Direct Medical Costs of Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency in the United States.”
Jason Noel, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a three-year, $148,749 contract from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for “Developmental Disabilities Administration.”

Fadia Shaya, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, $380,000 contract from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Behavioral Health Services Administration for “Evaluation and Technical Assistance Services for the Maryland Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Prevention Program.”

Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $218,840 contract from Novartis for “Novartis HEOR Fellowship.”

Lisa Berlin, PhD, associate professor, was the keynote speaker at the inaugural conference of the Healthy Attachment Australia New Zealand (HAANZ) network, held in Canberra, Australia. Her presentation addressed “Attachment-Based Interventions in Community Settings.”

Amanda Lehning, PhD, assistant professor, received a two-year, $153,000 contract from the Maryland Department of Human Services to enhance adult protective services (APS). The purpose of the project is to develop a standardized assessment tool for Maryland APS to assess risk and safety at an initial investigation of elder abuse, monitor progress over time, and guide decisions regarding appropriate interventions.

Student Carolyn Peterkin has written If Only I Knew Me, a young adult novel that chronicles a young woman’s life-threatening struggle with inner demons.
This summer, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) welcomed more than 50 teenagers and young adults in its role as a YouthWorks employer. The teens gained valuable skills and relationships while learning what UMB has to offer.

The University has participated for more than 25 years in YouthWorks, a work readiness program coordinated by the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development and expanded after unrest in Baltimore in 2015.

YouthWorks gives city youth the chance to pursue their interests and gain experience. The teens, many of them neighbors of UMB, received payment for five weeks to work in one of four capacities:

- Summer Bioscience Internship Program (SBIP)
- UMB Community Engagement Center
- HIRE One, in administrative roles
- UMB CURE Scholars Program

**Summer Bioscience Internship Program**

SBIP, which has been operating since 2008, goes beyond arranging scientific placements. It tries to give participants a taste of what UMB does in all its facilities. A three-day orientation, coordinated by social work student Janeé Franklin, involved visiting the School of Medicine (SOM) and School of Pharmacy (SOP) as well as the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

Some of the SBIP youth worked in the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in a partnership between UMB and UMMC. Students worked on the Stop the Bleed campaign, which teaches ways to apply tourniquets to stop bleeding after cuts or wounds. They developed a public service announcement to be made available to schools across Maryland. The campaign was featured in an Aug. 9 article in *The Sun*.

“A lot of these kids come from communities that do not have health care professionals and scientists on the block,” said Brian Sturdivant, MSW, director of UMB Strategic Initiatives and Community Partnerships, who worked with SOM’s Allison Robinson, program manager, Family and Community Medicine, on the summer program. “They might not have someone in their lives who works in a professional career. So, who are they going to learn from if they don’t learn it from us?”

**Community Engagement Center**

That “good neighbor” approach also extends to the CEC. It assigned YouthWorks workers to one of four projects in West Baltimore neighborhoods: Historic Preservation, Mount Clare Vacant Housing, Merchant Access, and Pop! Farm. Each group went out into the community and gained skills. Dejahna Banks, a worker on the Mount Clare project, said her most valuable new skill was “asserting myself and adapting a confident ability in new communities.”

She was among several youth employed by UMB from June 26 to July 28 who were interviewed for a July 9 *Sun* article about YouthWorks.

While the YouthWorks age range is 14 to 21, many employers take only older students who have already developed professional skills. At the CEC, all but Banks and one other worker were younger than 16, said Bill Joyner, MSW, coordinator of community engagement.
CEC workers received presentations on college financing and college preparedness as well as learning work skills. Joyner said the CEC also taught students soft skills that others their age might not have. “Things like showing up to work, arriving on time, and staying until the end of the day every day,” Joyner said. “We also taught them how to type.”

Then there are bigger skills such as budgeting, saving, earning and managing credit, and banking.

On the last day of work, each group gave a recap of its projects at the center’s monthly lunch, which was served by several volunteers from the schools of dentistry and medicine.

For example, the Pop! Farm workers described how they had organized “Paint the Garden,” a cookout and multigenerational event on July 25. Using posters and social media, they attracted more than 75 participants, many of whom became artists for an afternoon with the help of YouthWorks supervisor Chanté Bonner, MSW ’16, LGSW, who arranged for an instructor and provided art supplies.

HIRE One

In its 27th year at UMB, HIRE One employs students 16 to 21 who live or attend school in Baltimore. Coordinators Camille Givens-Patterson, equal employment opportunity specialist, and Kim Mathis, office manager, Office of Accountability and Compliance, praised the caliber of the 18 students.

“They’re all very customer service-oriented,” Givens-Patterson said. “Our students are eager to learn and extremely helpful. The students come prepared to work and reach beyond expectations.”

Each student is paired with a mentor, based on common interests. The students have the opportunity to shadow their mentors, become more familiar with the University, and attain knowledge in their fields of interest.

Success stories of teenagers who in adulthood returned to UMB as full-time employees include Jana Anderson in Central Administration Support Services and Joseph Jones III in the Office of Public Safety.

“This program is an opportunity for a student to see what they are interested in,” Givens-Patterson said.

UMB CURE Scholars Program

YouthWorks students served as managers for the CURE summer program, according to mentoring coordinator Borndavid McCraw. They managed meals, filed papers, entered data, attended field trips, and engaged Scholars in science, technology, engineering, and math lessons.

No matter the program, there was one thing that every YouthWorks student at UMB can say they gained — ice cream. All four groups came together July 27, nearing the end of their last workweek, to celebrate with an ice cream social. SOP played host to the 55 students. Needless to say, the kids were thrilled to take a little time off after such an engaging summer.

— Will Milch and Patricia Fanning
SUMMER OF DISCOVERY

CURE Corner provides noteworthy updates from UMB’s CURE Scholars Program, a pipeline initiative that prepares West Baltimore children for health and research careers through hands-on workshops, lab experiences, and mentorship. UMB’s CURE Scholars are the youngest ever to participate in the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) national program.

Summer was a time of discovery for the middle school students in UMB's CURE Scholars Program. While their classmates were shelving their textbooks until the fall, the scholars stayed focused on potential careers in science and health care.

More than 20 scholars visited the School of Pharmacy on July 6-7 and July 13-14, where they attended brief lectures and participated in hands-on experiments in one of the school’s state-of-the-art laboratories.

Topics covered included the role of DNA in cancer, the incidence of obesity in the United States, recombinant DNA technology, and protein-based drugs. In the lab, students had an opportunity to extract DNA from strawberries and kiwis, test calories in foods such as marshmallows and popcorn, and express and purify a protein in E. coli.

“Studies have indicated that middle school is the best time to capture students’ interest in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math],” said Lisa Jones, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, who arranged the CURE Scholars’ visits. “However, you will be hard-pressed to capture much interest by sitting students at a desk all day.

“The hands-on experiments that students conducted in our lab not only reinforced lessons from our lectures, but were also fun and gave them opportunities to engage with the material and learn from each other,” she said.

On July 10-14, the School of Dentistry hosted a group of CURE Scholars at the Planet Smilez Discovering Dentistry Camp. Third-year dental student Kathryn Pawlak, who directed the event, which included hands-on learning, a poster contest, slideshow presentations, and a tour of the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry on UMB’s campus, encouraged all of the rising seventh-graders to dream big. “Work hard so you can accomplish your dreams,” she said.
The culminating event on July 14 took place at Davidge Hall, the oldest medical school building in continuous use for medical education in the Western Hemisphere.

“This is where public medical education began in the United States in the 19th century,” UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, told the 19 rising seventh-graders in attendance.

The rising eighth-graders in CURE had finished off their own stretch of hard work in making visits to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where they learned about satellites; to Becton, Dickinson and Co., where they viewed virtual reality equipment; and to the National Institutes of Health, where they helped NCI’s Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities celebrate 21 years of CURE.

Due to its success kindling an interest in science in younger students, UMB CURE has become a national model that NCI is encouraging others to adopt.

“People are looking at you — at what you’ve achieved already and how much you’ll go on to do, and they’re saying that they want a program like this one,” Perman told the scholars. “They want their young people to have opportunities like you do — like this camp, and all these people around you, guiding you, teaching you, cheering you on.”

The schools of Medicine and Nursing, URecFit, SMC Campus Center, Community Engagement Center, UM BioPark, and others lent support to the CURE Scholars Program during the summer. The youngsters came away impressed.

“Before I joined the UMB CURE Scholars Program, I thought science was mostly about reading books,” said Tyler McKenzie, a soon-to-be eighth-grader at Green Street Academy. “Now, I understand that there are a lot of opportunities for me in science. I like working with my partners on the different projects and knowing that if my ideas aren’t working, they will have other ideas that we can test — since we’re all contributing to the same project. I’m also looking forward to becoming a surgeon.”

— Patricia Fanning and Malissa Carroll
Patients who receive lifesaving care from a physician or surgeon are often so grateful they make generous gifts to medical schools and hospitals where they were treated.

One grateful patient — breast cancer survivor Carolyn Choate, 59 — has taken her gratitude a step farther, or, in this case, 300 miles farther. Not just thankful for the breast cancer treatment she received, she is forever indebted to the scientist, the late Angela Brodie, PhD, of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), who originally discovered the treatment, and she wants others to know about it.

To do so, Carolyn and her daughter Sydney Turnbull, 27, launched a 300-mile “River of Life” kayaking journey that took them from Port Jervis, N.Y., on the Delaware River, all the way to Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, where they arrived on Aug. 27. Their goal was to raise awareness and support along the way for future generations of breast cancer research at UMSOM, where Brodie conducted her groundbreaking research for nearly 40 years, until her passing in June of this year.

The mother-daughter team hopes donations raised during their 17-day journey will fund a Distinguished Professorship in honor of Brodie, who is recognized internationally for pioneering the use of aromatase inhibitors to treat a common form of breast cancer.

“It’s important to me that I do whatever I can to honor Dr. Brodie and continue to support the kind of innovation that, quite literally, saved my life, and the lives of countless other women,” said Choate, who has raised money and awareness for breast cancer research by advocating at home and abroad.

Choate’s connection to Brodie began in 2003, when she was diagnosed with Stage 3b estrogen-positive breast cancer. At age 45, Choate was a local TV personality in New Hampshire, with a full life revolving around her husband and two young daughters, Sydney, then 12, and MacKenzie, 9. Despite regular mammograms, she was the one who discovered the abnormality in her right breast. Her surgeon gave her three years to live. Now, 14 years since her original prognosis, she credits her recovery and improved health with the aromatase inhibitor that Brodie discovered.

With the goal of raising $500,000 to complete a $2.5 million Distinguished Professorship in honor of Brodie, the mother-daughter team said they are celebrating the millions of women diagnosed with and recovering from breast cancer, the exceptional research and development like Brodie’s that has saved many lives so far, and the promise of future generations of research in this critical area.

If you would like to support this cause, please visit the [website](#).

“Dr. Angela Brodie’s impact on the treatment of breast cancer has been unparalleled, saving thousands of lives around the world. We are appreciative of this tremendous effort to honor her work and support future generations of lifesaving research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine,” said E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, vice president for medical affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean of UMSOM.

— School of Medicine
PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Theft is a major part of any college/university crime report and UMB is no exception. Despite an overall sterling crime report from the UMB Police Force in January, there were still 73 thefts at UMB in 2016 after 80 in 2015.

Members of the UMB community, acting as “the eyes and the ears” of the police, can help bring down those numbers. Here are some other simple suggestions for protecting your personal belongings.

• Register your most valuable belongings. Take pictures of your property and register the serial numbers, especially for items like electronics and bicycles. Put your name in your textbooks.

• Do not leave phones, backpacks, iPods, or laptops where someone can easily steal them. Never leave your valuables unattended or unsecured.

• Do not carry your ID, credit cards, and money in your backpack. Carry them in a wallet in a front pocket or a small purse (or travel pouch) around your neck.

• Leave expensive items at home (e.g., jewelry).

• When you’re walking around campus, put your phone away. Smartphones and other technology devices are easy to steal, easy to transport, and easy to convert into cash.

• Lock your bike.

• Travel in groups while walking and consider using the UMB Police Force escort service for a ride or uniformed walking companion. Two seven-passenger vans operate during peak hours between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m., 365 days a year, and walking escorts are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 6-6882 on campus.

Common sense also can go a long way toward deterring crime, says Cpl. J.R. Jones, safety awareness officer in UMB’s Department of Public Safety.

“If someone you don’t know is walking around the building or in someone’s empty office, call us,” Jones says. “Or if someone is leaving and their purse is sitting out on top of their desk, say, ‘You might want to put that away.’ Things like that would be fantastic; that’s helping to look out for each other.”

Also take advantage of Operation Property Identification, a program designed to deter theft and make it easier to recover stolen property. All you need to do is engrave small, portable valuables (stereos, televisions, cameras, personal computers) with your driver’s license number. Electric engraving tools are available from the University Police Force. Call 6-1408 on campus.

Visit here for more UMB safety tips.

— Chris Zang